

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 12/10/13

## Community Development

### Active Construction Projects (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

Winchester Boulevard South Extension – This project includes the construction of a new four-lane connector from Placida Road to the Charlotte/Sarasota County line, with a direct connection to I-75 via River Road within Sarasota County. As construction progresses, the final design and permitting of the intersection of SR 776/Winchester will occur and the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project. Currently, the contractor is working on shop drawings and is conducting survey lay out work. Gopher Tortoise relocation will follow. Negotiations continue with the design consultant for a scope and fee modifying the plans at the Winchester Boulevard North/SR 776 intersection to include a right turn lane onto Winchester Boulevard North.

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevard - Three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West. These three sidewalk projects were going to be grouped together as one project however this plan has been modified; Rotonda Boulevards East and North will be advertised as a single project and Rotonda Boulevard West will be advertised separately. Update on East & North: The construction contract was awarded Nov. 12, 2013 to Owen-Ames-Kimball Company. A pre-construction meeting was held Dec. 4, 2013 and Notice to Proceed is established for January 6, 2014.

### Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects (Nov 6 – Dec 1, 2013)

Burnt Store Lakes (MSBU-South Burnt Store Lighting & Landscaping) – This project is underway; conduit and screw bases have been installed and we are awaiting fixtures. All poles and pull boxes have been installed and new load center is under construction.

Edgewater Phase Two – Lighting District staff completed the final review of lighting specifications and provided them to the Project Engineer.

Harbor Boulevard Sidewalk – lighting inspection is ongoing for ITS conduits for fiber optic cable and pedestrian enhancements to the traffic signal at Peachland. Pedestrian features have been installed but not activated.

Harborview Road Bridge Replacement – The existing school flasher at the Bridge was removed and a new solar powered school flasher base and assembly was installed and activated in another location.

Rampart and Kings Highway – Lighting inspector is conducting a final inspection to ensure all punch list items have been completed.

Sunnybrook Boulevard Sidewalk Project - Lighting inspection began and construction is underway.

### Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects (Nov 6 – Dec 1, 2013)

- Re-inspected the City of Punta Gorda Multi-Use Trail project.
- Installed temporary radar detection to replace a bad loop detector at US 41/Hancock.
- Traffic Signal Preventative Maintenance was performed at the following locations.
  - SR 776/ Sunnybrook
  - SR 776/North Access to Merchants Crossing
- Installed 2 radar vehicle detection units at US 41/Hancock to replace failed inductive loop detection in roadway.
- Worked on fiber optic pull box and maintenance in West County.
- Seven (7) Lighting District personnel attended Altec Aerial Lift safety training.
- Built load center for Burnt Store Lakes lighting project.

- Replaced inoperable Coho cameras at Kings Highway/I-75 northbound ramps and Jones Loop/Taylor Road.
- Replaced underground street lighting conductors that were shorting out along Harborview Road
- Replaced one pedestrian signal pole damaged in a vehicle accident at SR 776/Coliseum Blvd.
- Grounded the relocated flag pole light at the San Casa Public Works yard (M&O).
- Installed a new sign on the flashing beacon at Sheehan/Alton.
- Replaced batteries in the UPS units at US 41/Edgewater and SR 776/Pine Street.

**Locates Performed:** 232 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 65 tickets for locates.

**Trouble Calls:** 9 trouble calls received, responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

#### **Lighting Projects – FDOT Projects (Nov 6 – Dec 1, 2013)**

- SR 776/Gulfstream Boulevard - Final inspection has taken place and all punch list items resolved.

#### **Paving Projects**

2012 North/South Paving Program – This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte, the Road & Bridge District, Burnt Store Village, and Tropical Gulf Acres. Substantial completion has been issued; this project is complete and will be finalized and closed out by Dec. 6, 2013.

2012 West County Paving Program – This program provides for the resurfacing of roadways in Gulf Cove, Rotonda Lakes and Rotonda Sands. Substantial completion and the final punch list were issued; the Contractor will complete this project by the end of December 2013.

2014 County Paving Program - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte and the Road & Bridge Districts. 2014 paving maps area available on the public website. This project was recently advertised for bid. The pre-bid conference was held Nov. 1, 2013 and bids were opened Dec. 4, 2013. This is a 300 calendar day contract and is expected to be awarded in January 2014.

### **Community Services**

#### **Tringali Recreation**

What a fantastic weekend for a garage sale. The garage sales are back and held the first Sunday of the month at the Tringali Recreation Center. Sunday, December 1, 2013, Tringali hosted its Giant Community Garage Sale. The entire inside and majority of the outside spaces were sold. The event, which is free to the public, had approximately 300 people attending. The Giant Community Garage Sale is held on the first Sunday of each month and will continue throughout the month of April.

#### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

Rentals at Harold Avenue Recreation Center are on the rise causing an increase in exposure to the Center. On Tuesday the Center hosted games for the Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic School's Basketball Team. During this time approx. 100 players and their supporters filled the gymnasium in support of their teams. In other news, participation in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

#### **Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation**

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center our rentals included, CERT Training (30), Wedding Reception (120), and a Christmas Party (50).

Looking ahead we will be hosting Charlotte County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Luncheon (110), Charlotte County Human Services, Civil Citation Volunteer Training (30), and a Birthday Party (120).

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 51 paid admissions, was visited by 47 pass holders and had 36 water aerobics participants.

## **South County Regional Park and Pool**

South County finished out a successful Thanksgiving Break Camp Mon-Wed with 30 kids attending each day. Winter Break Camp registration is ¼ full with 3 weeks left to register.

Staff is busy working on the Pickleball Marathon for this Saturday. We currently have 35 players for the 12 hour marathon that runs from noon to midnight. All proceeds go to Kids Camp Connection.

For the week of 11-24-13 through 11-30-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 26 paid admissions, was visited by 53 pass holders and had 5 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte High School Swim & Dive Team held 7 practices resulting in approximately 350 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 250 "splashes".

## **Oyster Creek Regional Pool**

For the week of 11-27 through 12-3-13, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 74 paid admissions, was visited by 62 pass holders and had 76 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 4 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes".

## **Extension Services**

Newspaper Article for December 2nd – "Rain gardens – take advantage of low spots"

Parkside Tree Canopy Restoration Committee – 8:30 am – December 3rd

Master Gardener Christmas Luncheon – Beach Complex – 10 am – December 4th

All Agents – 2013 Report of Accomplishments/2014 Plan of Work and Major Program Budget Due to UF/IFAS – December 6th deadline

## **Libraries and Historical**

All the Libraries are looking very festive for the Holidays. Stop by your nearest Library and check out the large assortment of materials they have to enhance your celebrations. Each Library is also offering some Holiday programs, check with your nearest Library or go to our website.

Landscaping and Parking Lot Improvements are ongoing at the Mid-County Library. This project has been much anticipated as our paving was in very bad shape. Signage is needed throughout the site and much of the original landscaping has died over the years. There are maps and information at the Reference desk in the Library and a large map of the planned improvements in the front lobby. We will phase the project in an effort to provide as much parking as we can during this time.

On January 9th at 6:30 p.m. an Astronomer will be at the Mid-County Library to lecture about the universe, the stars and other celestial wonders and then weather permitting attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy a telescope in our parking lot. This program is free and open to the public.

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

Facilities HVAC team has been working on two projects for Charlotte County. The first is a finalization of the list of materials being credited to Facilities from Gates Corporation (formerly Gates Rubber). When blower belt life did not meet expectations, an agreement with manufacturer was reached to eliminate purchasing new products. The total amount we hope to see credited should be around \$4,500.00. This credit will go toward future A/C blower belt purchases through Trane Parts until the total amount is exhausted.

Our HVAC controls technician is compiling a materials list needed for the automation of the HVAC systems at West County Administration building on San Casa Drive in Englewood. As soon as this list is completed, the ordering of components will be the next step. Facilities staff will be doing the installation and programming to save on outside contractor costs.

### **Operations**

Annual fire extinguisher maintenance and inspections are complete for Facilities Department's buildings.

Approximately 100 broken or deteriorating parking stops were recently replaced at the Murdock Administration parking lot area. This is part of a routine maintenance and preventive maintenance plan performed about every three years.

### **Project Management**

Southwest Engineering and Design (also known as SED) has been selected as the design engineer for the Franz Ross Park - Field, Drainage and Parking Lot improvement project. This company with a local office in Punta Gorda specializes in civil engineering, transportation, and land development. Their goals of improving quality of life, protecting natural resources, and bettering the environment mesh perfectly with Charlotte County goals. The aim of this particular project is to improve the football playing field drainage so the turf is playable and also provide for additional parking at this heavily used facility.

The quotes were received for the under drain pump station repair at the Charlotte County sports park. The lowest quote was accepted with a pre-commencement meeting held on 12/2/13. The estimated project duration is 60 days. This repair goal is to reduce public complaints regarding wet grass in parking areas during excessive rainy weather.

### **Public Safety**

The 15th Annual 2013 Santa Firehouse Pancake Breakfast Events are planned for later this month. These events are opportunities for the CC Fire/EMS staff to welcome the Community into their firehouses for firehouse and apparatus tours, fire safety education, a great social time filled with fun and excitement. CC Fire/EMS is very fortunate to have Englewood Community Hospital and Fawcett Memorial Hospital sponsor the two Santa Firehouse Pancake Breakfast Events. Breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. with Santa arriving on the fire engine. The bright eyes and smiles on the faces of the children are a site you will not want to miss. Fire Chief Dennis R. DiDio and his staff fire up the grills to prepare pancakes, sausage with all of the fixings for a delicious breakfast! Santa and his elves are guaranteed to stay at the events until each and every child has the opportunity to talk with Santa. The first event is on Friday, December 20, 2013, at CC Fire/EMS Station #4, located at 13600 Marathon Blvd. Gulf Cove, and Firehouse doors open at 9:00 a.m. This event ends at 11:00. The second breakfast is on Monday, December 23, 2013, at CC Fire/EMS Station #12, located at 2001 Luther Road, Deep Creek, Firehouse doors open at 9:00 a.m. The event ends at 11:00. Reservations are needed for both events. To make reservations please call Charlotte County Fire/EMS Headquarters at 941-833-5600.

### **Tourism**

The VISIT FLORIDA Annual Marketing Retreat was held in Palm Beach Gardens (Dec 2-4) where representatives from various destinations, attractions, hotels and restaurants gathered with VISIT FLORIDA staff to learn about the state of the tourism industry as well as a brainstorming and provide feedback for the upcoming year's marketing strategy. As with previous years, staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau attended. Breakout sessions focused on the "2020 plan" as well as plans for reaching 100 million annual visitors to the state, a goal set by Governor Scott.

Peter Kim, of the Dachis Group opened the general sessions with "Turning Likes into Loves," a well thought out overview of Social Media Business. Joel Book, of ExactTarget, closed the general sessions with a powerful presentation on the evolution of marketing, "Marketing to the Power of One."

Various campaigns, both existing and new were reviewed. One example of a campaign that focuses on specific demographic is Visit Florida's sponsor involvement in "La Voz," essentially a Spanish version of "The Voice" which will be produced in Miami by Telemundo. The "Must Be the Sunshine" campaign which ran heavily last Spring was reviewed and touted as an enormous success. The campaign, which targeted families with children under 16, generated \$390 in traveler spending and \$23 in sales tax revenue for each \$1 spent on advertising. More about this particular campaign success can be read here: <http://www.visitfloridablog.org/?p=8046>.